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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Soviet Behavioral Science - R&D (U)

Emphasis

(S) The Soviet Union is conducting highly creditable and sophisticated research in the behavioral sciences. The main areas of emphasis are in the fields of psychopharmacology, psychobiology, parapsychology and human factors. Over the past 10 to 15 years, there has been a significant shift towards a multidisciplined approach in their research efforts. The most obvious examples are their investigation of the synergistic effects of multiple drugs, drugs combined with physical stimuli such as ultrasonic and electromagnetic fields, and team efforts in parapsychology by engineers, psychologists, and medical investigators. Telepathic communication and psychokinesis are highly sensitive military and political areas. A great deal of effort is being expended to borrow Western ideas and expertise in this field. In psychopharmacology, their research into the biochemistry of memory and emotional behavior in human subjects may produce significant breakthroughs.

Goals

(S) Their major goal in the overall area of behavioral research is to make significant breakthroughs in the fields of psychopharmacology and parapsychology. Another area of significance is refining and enhancing the field of human factors. Apparently this problem is being felt very gravely as evidenced by a long history of equipment maldesign in critical military and indistrial man-machine interfaces. Politically they are novices in dealing with non-captive populations. The Soviets are used to dictating policy and these approaches are evidently less than effective in other environments, i.e., in Egypt. To offset this sledgehammer approach the newly found "social psychologists" are very busy incorporating Western ideas in the remotivation and control of alienated subgroups. The approach is most typically non-Soviet since even many of their scientists do not apparently consider this a viable option.

(S) In the military sphere their most significant goals are to 1) improve their man-machine interfaces, 2) find quick and easy ways to demoralize, influence or debilitate the enemy, and 3) find more effective methods to mold, influence and control the vast military forces at their disposal. A corollary effort, at a much smaller scale, is the development of more sophisticated means of surgically, chemically, or psychophysically controlling behavior in a non-debilitating or overtly detectable manner.

Level of Effort

(S) The Soviet Union is spending a considerable amount of money on psychological research. B. Lomov expects to expand his present contingent of 250 to 300 Ph.D.s to 1000 by 1980. This effort is both overt and covert and deals primarily with human factors, psychopharmacology, and psychophysics. Their leading scientists are very competent and are extremely interested in international knowledge and exposure. Names like Luriya, Lomov, and Kogan are still playing major roles in this discipline. Since Luriya's recent death the leadership in neuro-psychology will probably be taken by N. P. Bechtereva of the Institute of Experimental Medicine in Leningrad.

(S) Most military oriented research in psychopharmacology and parapsychology is being done by persons unknown. The leading researchers in these and other fields dealing with military and strategically relevant fields have been isolated from the international scene. Scientists in the international arena include B. D. Lomov, V. Venda, N. P. Bechtereva, N. N. Konovalov (Director of the Burdenko Institute), I. M. Kogan, E. Naumov. Most scientists doing relevant work in strategically important disciplines have been placed in highly directed, non-publicized research teams. The Burdenko Institute of Neurosurgery (Moscow) and the Pavlov Institute of Physiology (Leningrad) are continuing in relevant psychological research. This effort has been drastically expanded to numerous other laboratories. These include: the Institute of Neurology (Moscow), the Institute of Neurosurgery (Leningrad), the Institute of Experimental Medicine (Leningrad), the Scientific Research Institute of Neurosurgery (Kiev), and the Institute of Experimental and Clinical Neurology (Tbilisi). In addition, most Soviet republics have such an "Institute".